

DATE: January 22, 2015

TO: Committee on Housing Affordability, Human Services and

**Economic Resiliency** 

Councilmember Sally Clark, Chair

Councilmember Tom Rasmussen, Vice-Chair

Councilmember Kshama Sawant Councilmember Mike O'Brien

FROM: Steve Walker, Director, Office of Housing

SUBJECT: January 29 CHAHSER Presentation: Office of Housing 2014 Race and Social

Justice Initiative Work Plan

We are looking forward to sharing some highlights of the Race and Social Justice work that OH carried out in 2014. Our complete 2014 OH RSJI Work Plan is posted on the RSJI Outcomes. Strategies and Actions (ROSA) website, but this public-facing website does not reflect some of the internal RSJ work we've accomplished over the last year.

The attached slides provide a good overview of our principal areas of focus during 2014: (i) inclusive community engagement; (ii) equitable access to housing; and (iii) investment in equitable development. Specific actions related to each focus area will be the heart of our presentation.

Due to time constraints, we will not be able to highlight another important part of our 2014 efforts: re-establishing a strong departmental Change Team. Due to staff turnover, the OH Change Team composition changed almost 100% from 2013 to 2014. Two new employees were recently recruited to join the Change Team. Change Team Co-leads also meet regularly with me and my Deputy Director. Our department approved and adopted our first OH RSJI Charter, which was developed by the OH Change Team.

In collaboration with SOCR, we held two tailored RSJ trainings for OH staff in 2014. The first training, an RSJI Foundation Trainings, was held on May 19, 2014 (13 staff attendees). The second trainings, modified from *Race: The Power of Illusion* training, was held on May 28, 2014 (34 attendees).

By focusing our efforts on these RSJ fundamentals, in addition to the external-facing RSJ work we'll share with you next week, OH is in a much stronger position to assess and address Race and Social Justice issues in our day-to-day work.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our work.

Attachments:
OH RSJI CHAHSER Presentation
OH RSJI CHAHSER Exhibit 1